

## **Historic, Archive Document**

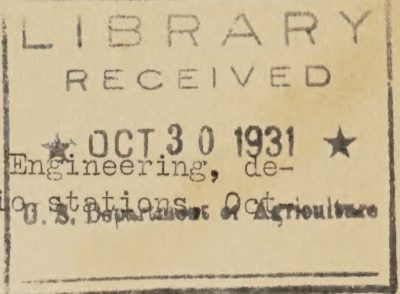
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FIRE RESISTANT FARM BUILDINGS



A radio talk by M. C. Betts, Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, delivered through station WRC and 43 other associate NBC radio stations, October 8, 1931.

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Skimping the construction of farm buildings may save a little money in the beginning but when the demon fire pays a visit it may prove to be very costly indeed. Full protection from fire, so far as construction is concerned, is not feasible for the average farmer but much can be done at little extra expense.

First, consider the location of the major farm buildings with respect to the possibility of fire being carried on the wind from one building to another and the danger of direct exposure to nearby fires.

The next consideration is the heating equipment. Is it of substantial construction and so installed that surrounding inflammable materials will not be endangered by overheating or breakage of the heating units? Are nearby inflammable materials protected by incombustible coverings or guards?

Chimneys should never rest upon any sort of timber construction. They should be built from the ground up and rest on good masonry foundations. No woodwork should be permitted within two inches of chimney masonry.

Lined chimneys are safer and more efficient. The walls of chimney flues should be not less than eight inches thick and all the masonry should be laid in good cement and lime mortar. The top of the chimney should be capped with stone, concrete, or cast iron to prevent disintegration of the top masonry.

Smoke pipes should be tightly fitted and well anchored to chimneys and should be at least 18 inches from any woodwork unless the latter is guarded.

Fire originating in the lower part of a building will spread rapidly between floors and through open spaces in the walls unless fire stopping has been installed.

Choose roof covering of farm buildings with regard to durability and resistance to fire. Sparks and brands from another fire falling on combustible roofs have caused heavy losses.

A great many fires have been caused by lightning. There is no question as to the protective value of properly installed rodding.

Electric wiring systems also may be a source of danger if not properly installed. Wiring and electrical appliances should be installed only by experienced electricians and in strict accordance with the National Electrical Code.



